



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

will cause you not to expect to meet with persons of similar dispositions; yet you will retain a temperate and sweet admiration of nature, and when chance leads you to mix with characters to your taste, you will also feel a temperate but lasting pleasure.—Do not

despise moderation.—Do not confound it with stupidity; they inspire their votaries with far different sensations: but your own good sense assisted by experience will be of more use to you than any thing I can say.

ELIZA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

LIFE OF THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.

Continued from p. 285, No. IX.

ABOUT this time the Court of Directors of the East India Company were looking out for a proper person to fill the Presidency of Madras. The enormous abuses which had been committed by a succession of weak or wicked governors, who had attained this station, through no merit of their own, but merely by the routine of service, loudly called for reformation; and it was evident to every man of sense and honesty, that in order to restore the reputation of the administration, and establish the affairs of the company on a firm basis, the choice must fall on a man of known capacity, integrity and firmness. Notwithstanding the great difficulties that appeared, many candidates presented themselves. The choice at length, after some opposition, fell upon Lord Macartney; so universal was the prepossession in his favour, both among the directors and proprietors, that he was appointed without the usual forms of a ballot.

Immediately after receiving his appointment, he set out to take possession of his charge, and at the beginning of June, 1781, arrived at Madras. On inquiring into the general state of affairs he found them still worse than they had been represented. A war had been declared against the English by Hyder Ali, who had followed up this declaration, by an invasion of the Carnatic. At the head of an army of 100,000 cavalry, he over-ran the Carnatic, spreading desolation on every side, and gratifying his hatred of the English, by the indiscriminate slaughter of every one subjected to their dominion. The country was depopulated. Those who escaped the sword, fled to the seat of government for shelter and support. The city of Madras, surrounded on

every side by large detachments of the marauding Indians, who daily approached to the very gates, was forced to depend on the precarious subsistence procured by sea. The multitudes which flocked in, increased the pressure of public calamity. The British government, which, either through contempt or ignorance, had neglected to make the proper preparations, wasted the time that should have been employed in opposing the enemy, in useless recrimination. The army was badly paid; the native troops deserted in numbers to the enemy. Those which remained were disabled, through want of cavalry and military stores, from taking the field. And the only two allies to whom the English could look for relief, the Nabob of Arcot, and the Rajah of Tanjore sent in supplies sparingly and with reluctance. To complete all, a war which broke out between England and the United Provinces added a formidable enemy to the number against which the British Government in India had to contend.

At this crisis Lord Macartney assumed the reins. By employing all his influence, both public and private, he collected means sufficient to satisfy the troops for the present, and inspire them with better hopes for the future, and immediately taking advantage of the spirit thus raised, led them out, and gained several important advantages over the enemy. At the same time conscious of the difficulties against which he had to struggle he made proposals to Hyder Ali for a pacification. The reply of this chieftain shows that the conduct of the English in similar cases had been such as to render their fidelity in keeping the engagements entered into with the native powers more than doubtful. “The governors and sir

dars," says he, "who enter into treaties, after one or two years return to Europe, and their acts and deeds become of no effect. Prior to your coming, when the governor and council of Madras had departed from their treaty of alliance and friendship, I sent my agent to confer with them, and to ask the reason of such breach of faith; the answer given was, that they who had made these conditions were gone to Europe." This conduct was attended by such consequences as might have been expected. Hyder Ali preferred entering into a close alliance with the French and Dutch in the hope that their united arms would be able to exterminate the British power in India.

This is not the proper place to enter into the details of a campaign in the operations of which the subject of this memoir did not take an active part, though he may be justly stiled the main-spring, the vital principle, as it was by his superintendence that the officers commanding were able to gain such signal advantages as retrieved the affairs of the English, and gave them reason to hope for more solid success in future; yet the following summary of events proves that the company were not mistaken in their opinion of the person in whom they reposed so great a trust.

In the first six months of his administration the main army, effectually assisted by the exertions of the presidency, without which it could not possibly have kept the field from the total want of pay and provisions, was enabled to bring the enemy to two decisive actions and to gain the two important victories at Portonovo and Conjeveram. By well planned enterprises and by detachments from the garrison of Madras was effected the capture and destruction of the Dutch settlements of Sadras, Pulicat, Madepollam, Policat, Bimlipatam, and Negapatam, thereby dissolving the connection that had been formed between this power and Hyder Ali, annihilating its influence on the Coromandel coast, and driving the enemy out of the Tanjore country; and these successes were crowned by the assignment made by the nabob

of Arcot to Lord Macartney, for the use of the company, of the revenues of the Carnatic; thus taking them out of the hands of the rapacious Mahomedan agents of the nabob, who employed their power to oppress the natives and enrich themselves, and lodging them in hands through which they could be applied to the service of the company.

In the following year Lord Macartney had new difficulties to contend against. His active interference in all departments of the administration, both civil and military, had excited the jealousy of the commanders both by sea and land. Sir Eyre Coote, a general of ability and experience, finding that he could not exert the unlimited controul over all military arrangements, which he had been accustomed to exercise, permitted his private feelings to prevail over his public duty, and after a fruitless endeavour to raise the military department to an independence on the civil, during which he threw many obstacles in the way of the presidency, which retarded the progress of success, he retired to Bengal, under the excuse of ill-health. The admiral also, Sir Edward Hughes, after having successfully opposed and baffled at sea his active and persevering antagonist Suffrein, towards the close of the year, formed the resolution of going round the peninsula to Bombay to refit, and notwithstanding the urgent remonstrances of the government of Madras, which foresaw that the preservation of that part of the British dominion depended principally on its naval superiority, he adhered to this determination. The consequence would have been fatal, had the French admiral taken advantage of his departure, and blocked up the harbour; but as he had heard of the arrival of another English squadron in these seas, he was afraid to expose his shattered fleet to new assaults, and left the settlement unmolested.

The death of Hyder Ali, which occurred at the end of this year, afforded a prospect of a favourable change. But this was soon clouded. His son, Tippoo Saheb, who succeeded him, inherited all his father's animosity, and seemed to possess superior means of giving it efficacy. With the money

which he found in the treasury, he paid off the soldier's arrears; he abolished the duties on provisions sold in the camp, and adopted a system of indulgence to the troops, directly opposite to the severe policy of his father. Thus by some well-timed popular acts, and the hopes which a new reign generally inspires, as well as by the adoption of European discipline, he threatened to become a more formidable opponent to the British power than ever Hyder Ali was.*

After the departure of Sir Eyre Coote, the command devolved on General Stewart. This officer seems to have assumed the ideas of his predecessor along with his rank, and to have employed his thoughts much more in counteracting the views of the president, than those of the common enemy. He employed every invention to protract his departure

* Hyder Ali, a few days before his death is said to have sent for his two principal Dewans, and dictated to them the following letter to be delivered to Tippoo Sahib. "I marched out of my country to attack and drive the English out of their possessions in the Carnatic, in which attempt I have expended a great treasure. I invited the French, but since their arrival have never received any assistance from them; however, should I recover, I think I should be able to finish what I have begun. I have raised myself to the Nabobship of Seringapatam, established a great name, and conquered many countries. I therefore desire you will not bring disgrace on my name. You will make peace with the English, and return with your army to Seringapatam, and establish yourself in the government. I think there is no reliance to be put upon any assistance from the French; but should their ships arrive in a month or forty-five days, you may join them. But weigh all matters well: do nothing rashly, and consider whether or not you can effect my plans. When you make peace, give large bribes to the English officers, and procure the fort and district of Poodiscotah, belonging to the Trichenopoly country, and the hill and district of Halipady belonging to the Vellore country. You must have it stipulated in the treaty with the English, that they are to grant you assistance whenever you require it. You will also take possession of the forts of Mahee, and deliver them over to the French."

from Madras, whence he was ordered to proceed to attack Cuddalore; and when at last he did set out, he contrived to prolong a march of 100 miles, the distance between the two places, from the 21st of April to the beginning of June. Nor did his conduct change on his arrival before the fortress. Through a defect in the mode of communicating orders to the several parts of the army, the three columns formed for the attack, on whose simultaneous effort much of the success depended, advanced singly and unsupported. The town indeed was taken, but it cost the lives of 60 British officers and nearly 1000 men, a loss severely felt in an European army, in India. On the general's return, Lord Macartney found it necessary to take a decided step for the preservation of the settlement, and accordingly declared him disqualified for assisting the public service either in the cabinet or the field in future, and dismissed him from the company's employ. This exertion of authority involved Lord Macartney in a duel on his return to England, in which he received a wound. Nor was it attended at the time with the immediate good effects expected from it. The spirit of discontent, joined to the idea of the independence of the military to the civil establishment, had insinuated itself so far, that major general Burgoyne, the next in rank, declined accepting the command, and the president found it necessary, rather than relinquish his claims, to raise colonel Lang, the senior infantry officer, to the rank of lieutenant general, in order to preserve the command of the troops in their own officers. Sir E. Hughes, who had returned to his station in spring, adhered to the same line of conduct he had hitherto adopted, and by declining an engagement with the French Admiral, chose rather to lower the character of the British navy, and to reject the laurels he might have easily won, than see any branch of them grace the brow of his rival. From the gloomy consequences of these jarring interests the settlement was fortunately relieved by a notification of preliminaries of peace having been signed between

France and England; and Tippoo Saheb found it his interest, after some delay and hesitation, to acquiesce in the proposals made to him, by commissioners from the English government, in consequence of which, on the 11th of March 1783, a treaty was signed by which a mutual restoration of places and prisoners was agreed on, conformably to the treaty of peace concluded in Europe.

The restoration of peace did not lessen the difficulties Lord Macartney had to encounter, it merely varied them. It was well known that the main object in his appointment to the government of Madras was the correction of abuses, and the extirpating of corruption. This it may be supposed created him many enemies among whom one of the most powerful and inveterate, was the celebrated Mr. Hastings, then governor-general of Bengal. The first attempt made to injure him, was by endeavouring to give up to the nabob of Arcot the assignment by which he had made over the revenues of the Carnatic to the company. To effect this every obstacle was raised to render it unproductive, and to vilify his conduct; but he was determined to persevere. His rigid adherence to covenants, and his positive refusal of all presents since his arrival in India, were so new as to render his motives at first inexplicable. At one time such conduct was imputed to his ignorance of the mode of governing the black population in India; at another it was suggested that his avarice required something more than what had yet been offered. Under this idea the usual present to a new governor of a lac of pagodas was augmented to two, with an apology from the nabob of having offered to a peer the present usually made to a commoner.—His refusal was viewed with the utmost astonishment. Soon after his arrival, another lure was thrown out. According to a custom common among the native powers who are said to be under the company's protection, every governor, admiral or commander in chief who happens to wear the insignia of any order of distinction or merit, is almost certain of being presented with a diamond star; he is

given to understand that a plain silver badge in India would be considered derogatory to his rank and station, and that he must therefore be allowed to present him with one more becoming his dignity. It is said to be "only a little *betel* among friends;" but to use his own expression, "it was a kind of *betel* he was determined neither to chew nor swallow."

When these means failed, they changed their system, and the nabob's ministers had recourse to the writing of letters, filled with misrepresentation and falsehood, to the government of Bengal. And, on finding this also ineffectual, they addressed a letter to the king of England, filled with a high-wrought description of the oppressions and cruelties exercised over the Carnatic, by the governor of Madras. This was accompanied by several others addressed to the Ministers and court of Directors, all unsupported by proof and destitute of foundation; but well calculated to mislead and inflame the unwary reader. To ensure success, the message to England was backed by a new complaint to the Bengal government. The latter part of the plan succeeded so far that the memorial, together with several other papers tending to criminate Lord Macartney, was transmitted to England, without any intimation of such proceeding to the party accused, and orders also given for the resignation of the assignment to the nabob. This order, however, was disregarded: the revenues still continued to be paid in the same manner in which they had so essentially contributed to the preservation of the Carnatic. This species of petty persecution ceased, however, by the sudden removal of Mr. Hastings, which gave time to his present rival to make his arrangements in quiet for the future welfare of the settlement. He had proceeded but a short way in his plans of improvement, when an order arrived from England to restore the assignment, and to substitute Mr. Holland as governor of Madras. The former of these proceedings was deemed expedient to give the nabob a proof of the honour and generosity of the British nation; the latter had been expected and desired. As he did not

wish to be a voluntary spectator of the resignation of that document, the attainment of which he looked on as an object of such importance, he determined not to wait for the arrival of his successor, but to return to England. He went by the way of Bengal, hoping to impress on the minds of the Company's servants there, the necessity of preventing the execution of this measure, or at least of delaying it till further instructions could be transmitted. For this purpose after having laid before the presidency a statement of his emoluments and expenses, by which it appeared that the whole amount of his revenue during his residence at Madras amounted but to £32,000, he arrived at Calcutta. He did not however succeed in the main object of his journey. The prejudices formed against him continued to operate, and were rather aggravated by his appointment to the government of Bengal, which was received by him while there. This, however, he declined, both from ill health and a wish to impress in a personal conference with the ministry, the true state of Indian affairs.

One of the difficulties he had to contend against was the dissention between the civil and military departments in the government, together with the jealousies arising between the king's troops and those in the company's service. The extremities to which the king's officers wished to proceed, may be judged of by the following circumstance. On the trial of Sir John Burgoyne, whom Lord Macartney had been reluctantly obliged to put under arrest, it appeared that at a meeting of the king's general officers, the day after General Stewart's arrest, a proposition was made by one of them to remove Lord Macartney from his government, and appoint another in his place, and to seize General Lang, the new commander in chief. The proposition was however rejected by Sir J. Burgoyne, whose prudence probably suggested to him the absurdity of such an attempt against one who had proved himself to be so well prepared against outrage or insult.

In the beginning of the year 1806, Lord Macartney returned to London, where he had an interview with the

ministers, the result of which was his declining the appointment that had been offered to him when at Bengal, unless on conditions which were thought inadmissible, and the subsequent appointment of the earl of Cornwallis. During this recess from public affairs, in which he appears a solitary instance of an officer under the crown returning from India, where his conduct had met with the decided approbation of the king's ministers, without having received any mark of the royal bounty. This season of retirement he spent in improving his paternal property at Lissanoure, where it is probable he would have passed the evening of his days, had not another public duty called him again into action. This was the celebrated embassy to China, undertaken with the view of removing the disabilities under which the British merchants laboured in that country, and drawing closer the commercial relations between the two kingdoms. The history of that expedition is too well known to be dwelt on here. Though it is generally considered as having failed, yet some favourable changes have resulted from it. The British character became better known and more respected in China. Many petty impositions and inconveniences were removed, and the merchant was permitted to make his complaints in the first instance to the viceroy. It increased the demand for British cloth. It afforded means of acquiring a competent knowledge of the language, by which a direct communication is opened to the Chinese government, without being dependent on the missionaries, who often proved incorrect and false interpreters; the navigation of the Yellow Sea also became better known.

It was Lord Macartney's intention to have proceeded to Japan on his return, but in consequence of war breaking out between France and England, he thought it more advisable to employ the ships which carried him in conveying the Chinese trade to England. To this country he returned in the end of the year 1794, and on landing found that in his absence he had been elevated to the dignity of an Irish earl, by the title of Earl of Macartney, in the county of Antrim.

The year following he was chosen

to undertake a secret mission to Italy, which he conducted to the satisfaction of the ministers. On his return he was created a British peer under the title of lord Macartney of Packhurst in Surrey. While he was absent in Italy he was also appointed governor of the Cape of Good Hope, which had surrendered to the English in September 1795. His administration here was marked by the same system of public economy, the same steady perseverance, and the same disinterestedness which had marked his character in every former situation. While he remained there he was beloved, and regretted on his departure. The only unpleasant circumstance which occurred was a mutiny in the squadron stationed there. At first it was appeased, but on the arrival of some other vessels it broke out again in a more formidable shape. As there appeared no prospect of its yielding to gentle means, lord Macartney determined to bring it at once to an issue. For this purpose, he repaired with his aid-de-camps to the battery, ordered the guns to be loaded, and the shot to be heated in the ovens, and taking out his watch he dispatched a message to the mutineers, that if they did not make an unconditional submission in half an hour, and hoist the royal standard in token of obedience, he would blow them out of the water. The threat had its effect, and order was immediately restored.

This was his last public employment. After his return in 1799, he spent the remainder of his life in retirement. The last six years of his life were much embittered by violent and reiterated attacks of the gout; but in the intervals he seemed to enjoy with great relish the society of his friends. His house was the resort of every distinguished character; persons of all parties courted his society and conversation. In 1805 his constitution visibly declined, he entirely lost his appetite and rejected all kind of food. In this state, the unfortunate turn of affairs on the Continent, and the death of Mr. Pitt, threw a considerable damp on his spirits.— Yet still hopes were entertained by the physicians; and three days before his death he was able to read the whole of the budget brought forward by the new chancellor of the exchequer, whom he pronounced to be a promising young man. On the evening of the 31st of March 1806, while reclining his head on his hand, as if dropping into a slumber, he sunk into the arms of death, without a sigh or struggle. His remains were deposited in the church-yard of Chiswick according to his own desire, near a residence he had a few years before purchased for the joint lives of himself and lady Macartney, and in the improvement of which he took great pleasure.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

COAL-GAS LIGHT.

Description of an Apparatus for producing Inflammable Gas from Pit Coal; constructed by Mr. S. Clegg, Steam Engine Manufacturer, Manchester.

Trans. Soc. Arts, vol. 26.

THE Apparatus which Mr. Clegg has described in his communication to the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, &c. is designed for producing gas to light manufactories on a large scale.

The cast iron retort, or vessel in which the coals are put to produce the

gas, is of a cylindrical form, and is inclosed horizontally in a brick fireplace, with one end opening outwards, in a similar manner to the iron ovens in common use; a semi-cylinder of cast iron is placed beneath it, to preserve it from being injured by the intensity of the fire, and to make the heat more equable; the grate for the fire extends inwards about one-third of the length of the retort, and the flame, after circulating over it, passes upwards through a flue above the front part of the retort: it is supposed that the cast iron shield placed beneath the retort, joins the brick-work at each side,